

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 264

June 15, 1995, 12:16 p.m.
Page S-8436 Temp. Record

TELECOMMUNICATIONS/Means Test for Community User Discount

SUBJECT: Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995 . . . S. 652. Pressler (for McCain) amendment No. 1285.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 98-1

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 652, the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995, will amend telecommunications laws and reduce regulations in order to promote competition in the telecommunications industry by eliminating barriers that prevent telephone companies, cable companies, and broadcasters from entering one another's markets. It will also permit electric utilities to enter the cable and telephone markets. Judicial control of telecommunications policy, including the "Modified Final Judgment" regime, will be terminated.

The Pressler (for McCain) amendment would provide that the discounted rates for telecommunications services that this bill will order to be given to libraries, schools, and rural health care providers would not be given to any entity: that operates as a for-profit business; that is a school with an endowment of more than \$50 million; or that is a library that is not eligible for Library Services and Construction Act title II funds. The effect of the amendment would be to prohibit discounts from going to entities that can afford to pay market rates for telecommunication services.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

This bill's supposed purpose is to deregulate the telecommunications industry. However, it will continue the practice of requiring the provision of "universal service" subsidies through government-selected companies. All companies will be taxed to provide these subsidies, and the selected companies will get their guaranteed customers. The bill will also specifically designate schools, rural hospitals, and libraries as telecommunications customers that must be given special subsidies. As we have argued on earlier votes (see vote Nos. 244 and 251), the current subsidy system has failed to meet its objectives and has operated as a welfare system for rich telecommunications companies. Because of the latter fact, it is our opinion that some Senators have been unwilling to change

(See other side)

YEAS (98)				NAYS (1)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (53 or 100%)		Democrats (45 or 98%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchison	Akaka	Hollings		Simon	Hatch- ^{2AY}	
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Baucus	Inouye				
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Johnston				
Bond	Kassebaum	Bingaman	Kennedy				
Brown	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kerrey				
Burns	Kyl	Bradley	Kerry				
Campbell	Lott	Breaux	Kohl				
Chafee	Lugar	Bryan	Lautenberg				
Coats	Mack	Bumpers	Leahy				
Cochran	McCain	Byrd	Levin				
Cohen	McConnell	Conrad	Lieberman				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Daschle	Mikulski				
Craig	Nickles	Dodd	Moseley-Braun				
D'Amato	Packwood	Dorgan	Moynihan				
DeWine	Pressler	Exon	Murray				
Dole	Roth	Feingold	Nunn				
Domenici	Santorum	Feinstein	Pell				
Faircloth	Shelby	Ford	Pryor				
Frist	Simpson	Glenn	Reid				
Gorton	Smith	Graham	Robb				
Gramm	Snowe	Harkin	Rockefeller				
Grams	Specter	Heflin	Sarbanes				
Grassley	Stevens		Wellstone				
Gregg	Thomas						
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

the current system. However, we are pleased to learn that those Senators who opposed our earlier efforts have agreed to accept this amendment, under which subsidies would still be given through particular companies, but they would only go to entities that need them. For-profit companies, wealthy schools, and wealthy libraries would not receive help. We are thankful to our colleagues for their acceptance of the McCain amendment, and we urge its adoption.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.